



PARTICIPATION OF SOCIAL ACTORS  
IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SUMMITS  
OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS

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**PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS IN COALITIONS FOR  
THE VIII SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS**

**I. Creation of Coalitions**

In order to foster broad, fair, and inclusive participation in the preparatory process of the Eighth Summit of the Americas and activities immediately preceding the Summit, civil society organizations and social actors are invited to organize self-managed hemispheric thematic coalitions.

For the purposes of the Summit, “*thematic coalition*” is to be understood as a group of at least 10 organizations and/or social actors with similar positions related to at least one of the three subthemes of the VIII Summit of the Americas.

The main objective of the coalition’s work is to strengthen the influence of organizations and social actors during the Summits preparatory phase. Each coalition should present proposals geared towards fomenting a constructive reflection and propose solutions or actions to address the subthemes of the Summit.

This work format will also allow those organizations or social actors unable to attend face-to-face activities throughout the process to join a coalition in order to participate in the process virtually.

Each coalition should ensure a regional balance among its members, representing at least two (2) of the four (4) regions of the Americas (North America, Central America, Caribbean, and South America). For the purposes of the VIII Summit, a coalition cannot be formed by the national chapters of the same organization. It must include other organizations sharing affiliated positions.

**II. Work Procedures for Coalitions**

- Each coalition will define its membership and internal procedures for the preparatory work for the Dialogue with High-Level Representatives of the Government.
- Each coalition will name a coordinator, who will be the point of contact with the organizers of the Summit.
- Coalition meetings and/or exchanges will be held in **English or Spanish**, as these are the languages in which the activities will be conducted. If the coalitions include both English- and Spanish-speaking participants, coordinator interventions should be made in both languages.

The [Summits Virtual Community](#) (SVC) will provide a workspace for coalitions and their respective members to coordinate their work to generate contributions for the dialogues planned as part of the Summit preparation process and activities immediately preceding the Summit.

On November 6, 2017, the Summit organizers established a virtual space in the SVC, where organizations or actors can create coalitions or join one of the proposed coalitions. Each coalition should visit this forum to present its coalition's proposal so that other actors that are not part of a coalition can join one of these. This virtual space is available at the following link: [http://svc.summit-americas.org/coalitions\\_en](http://svc.summit-americas.org/coalitions_en). Furthermore, the virtual space for discussion among coalitions, once they are formed and official will be available on **December 5, 2017**.

In order for a coalition to be considered the following information must be sent **no later than November 20, 2017**, to the e-mail address [summitcso@oas.org](mailto:summitcso@oas.org):

- List of organizations and/or social actors comprising the coalition, including the contact information for each organization or actor. The coordinator of each coalition should include (CC-copy) in the email all member organizations when sending the coalition's proposal and confirm that all of them agree with their inclusion in the coalition.
- Name of the organization or social actor serving as coordinator of each coalition.
- Coordinator contact information for each coalition.

On December 5, 2017, **the final list of official coalitions** that will participate in Summit activities and their contact information will be published on social media accounts and on the Summits Secretariat webpage.

If an organization or actor does not belong to any coalition, Summit organizers may, upon request, direct them to one of the existing coalitions, so they may participate in the Summits process. Each coalition will decide upon its membership.

Each official coalition is asked to send to the Summits Secretariat ([summitcso@oas.org](mailto:summitcso@oas.org)), no later than **January 20, 2018**, its order of preference for the subthemes, to efficiently coordinate its interventions during the Hemispheric Dialogue and Dialogue with High-Level Representatives of the Government planned as part of the process.

**Note:** To ensure adequate time for coalition interventions during the Hemispheric Dialogue and the Dialogue with High-Level Representatives of the Government, Summit organizers will work with coalitions that share common positions on a specific theme, to form alliances among them.

### **III. Events days prior to the Eighth Summit in Lima, Peru**

Peru, as the host country for the Eighth Summit, will provide a space for civil society organizations, youth, private sector, and other social actors to meet in the days prior to the Eighth Summit, as well as an opportunity to dialogue with the High-Level Representatives of the Governments of the Americas. The events held in the framework of the Eighth Summit will be as follows:

- The **Hemispheric Forum with Civil Society and Social Actors** is a space designed to offer participants the opportunity to obtain specialized information and encourage an exchange of opinions. The coalition format will be used.
- The **Dialogue between Social Actors and High-Level Government Representatives** is a space where civil society representatives and social actors can engage with the high-level representatives of the countries involved in the Summits process.

**Note:** Information about Civil Society and Social Actors accreditation and registration as well as a document outlining the participation guidelines for the events prior to the Eighth Summit will be sent in the coming weeks.

#### IV. Schedule of Activities in the Preparatory Process of the Eighth Summit \*

<b>2017</b>	
Launch of the theme for the Eighth Summit with Civil Society and Social Actors	July 20, 2017
Policy Dialogue on the theme of the Eighth Summit, Washington, D.C. Available at: <a href="https://youtu.be/uo3nS1DRcDQ">https://youtu.be/uo3nS1DRcDQ</a>	September 13, 2017
Second Regular Meeting of the SIRG in 2017, Washington, D.C.	September 14, 2017
Virtual consultation with Civil Society and Social Actors on the concept paper for the Eighth Summit	October 9-25, 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National face-to-face consultation with Civil Society and Social Actors.</li> <li>• Video about Coalition formation.</li> </ul>	Week of October 23, 2017
Launch of the virtual workspace for the coordination for the formation of Coalitions in the Summits Virtual Community	November 1, 2017
Third Regular Meeting of the SIRG in 2017, Lima, Peru	November 2-3, 2017
Deadline for Coalition formation and submission of information on their membership	November 20, 2017
Document sent outlining the participation guidelines for civil society and social actors in the days preceding the Eighth Summit	November 20, 2017
Publication of the final list of official Coalitions that will participate in the events of the Eighth Summit	December 5, 2017
Beginning of the application process to participate in the Eighth Summit (civil society and social actors)	December 5, 2017
Launch of the virtual workspaces for each Coalition in the Summits Virtual Community	December 5, 2017

<b>2018</b>	
End of the application process to participate in the Eighth Summit (civil society and social actors)	January 1, 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submission of the Coalitions' order of preference for the subthemes.</li> <li>• Progress report from each Coalition, to be presented at the SIRG meeting in February 2018</li> </ul>	January 20, 2018
Confirmation of accreditation of participants in the Eighth Summit of the Americas	February 15, 2018
First Regular Meeting of the SIRG in 2018 (venue TBD)	February 2018
Information Sessions on the progress made in Coalitions	February 2018
Accreditation deadline for the Eighth Summit (Online registration through the Eighth Summit website)	March 15, 2018
Hemispheric Dialogue with civil society and social actors	March 2018
Second Regular Meeting of the SIRG in 2018	March 2018 ( <i>to be confirmed</i> )
Submission of draft Coalition inputs to be presented at the Dialogue between Social Actors and High-Level Government Representatives	March 23, 2018
Accreditations issued	April 8-10, 2018
Civil Society and Social Actors Forum in the framework of the Eighth Summit	April 11 and 12, 2018
Dialogue between Social Actors and High-Level Government Representatives	April 12, 2018
<b>Eighth Summit of the Americas</b>	<b>April 13 and 14, 2018</b>

**\*The dates are estimates. Civil Society and Social Actors will be notified in a timely manner of any change.**

#### V. Summits of the Americas Secretariat Contact Information

- In case of having any queries, do not hesitate to contact us by email at [summitso@oas.org](mailto:summitso@oas.org).
- For more information about the Summits process, please visit our website and follow us on social media:



[www.summit-americas.org](http://www.summit-americas.org)



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- Would you like to join the Summits Virtual Community? Please register at <http://svc.summit-america.org/>.
- Would you like to receive email updates about Summits progress and implementation? Subscribe to our mailing list at <http://www.summit-america.org/brief/subscribe.html>.